

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION: PHOTO-
DUPLICATION OF THE ARCHIVES OF THE INDIES

1. IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, CU/WE HAS RESEARCHED--TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE IN WASHINGTON--THE SUBJECT OF MICROFICHING THE COLLECTION OF THE ARCHIVES OF THE INDIES IN SEVILLE. A NUMBER OF TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS CAN BE REACHED: (A) IT SHOULD BE DONE ON MICROFILM AND NOT MICROFICHE BECAUSE MICROFILM IS A MORE PRACTICAL SYSTEM FOR A SERIES OF DOCUMENTS; AND (B) WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE WAS DONE ON MICROFILM. WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT THE CENTRO NACIONAL DE MICROFILM IN MADRID WOULD AGREE.

2. WE ALSO FEEL CERTAIN THAT ARCHIVISTS FROM BOTH THE U.S. AND SPAIN WILL AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY STEPS: (A) BEFORE ACTUAL MICROFILMING CAN BEGIN, EACH AND EVERY DOCUMENT OF EACH "LEGAJO" OF EACH SECTION MUST BE PUT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER; (B) ALL DUPLICATES MUST BE REMOVED; AND (C) EACH DOCUMENT MUST BE ADEQUATELY IDENTIFIED WITH TITLE AND SUMMARY WHERE NECESSARY.

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3. ARCHIVISTS THE WORLD OVER AGREE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF

ORDERING AND PRESERVING OF THESE ARCHIVES ON MICROFILM. THE ENORMITY OF THE TASK AT HAND, HOWEVER, LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD TACKLE ONE SECTION AT A TIME, IN DECLINING ORDER OF PRIORITIES.

OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO AMERICAN SCHOLARS IS THE SECTION CALLED, "PAPELES DE CUBA." THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR BEGINNING WITH THIS SECTION: (A) IT IS MODERATELY SIZED (2,375 LEGAJOS); (B) IT IS PROBABLY FURTHER ALONG IN THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS MENTIONED IN PARA 2, AND (C) IT IS LIKELY THAT MORE MICROFILMING FROM PRIVATE SOURCES HAS BEEN DONE IN THIS SECTION THAN IN ANY OTHER. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE "PAPELES DE CUBA" IN IMPORTANCE TO SCHOLARS THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS IS THE SECTION CALLED, "AUDI-ENCIAS E INDIFERENTE" (ALSO THE LARGEST SECTION WITH 18,860 LEGAJOS).

4. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE AN ACCURATE COST ESTIMATE WITHOUT HAVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, E.G., AN AVERAGE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS PER LEGAJO AND CURRENT MICROFILM COSTS PER FRAME IN MADRID. WITH REGARD TO DOING THE "PAPELES DE CUBA", HOWEVER, AND ASSUMING AN AVERAGE OF 1,000 DOCUMENTS PER LEGAJO AND A COST OF US FIVE CENTS PER FRAME, THE TOTAL COST WOULD RUN TO APPROXIMATELY US DOLS 120,000 PLUS THE COSTS OF PREPARATION BUT MINUS THE COSTS OF THOSE DOCUMENTS PREVIOUSLY MICROFILMED.

5. WE HOPE THIS INFORMATION WILL BE USEFUL TO YOU IN DISCUSSING THIS PROJECT WITH SPANISH SIDE OF JOINT COMMITTEE. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DO SO WHENEVER YOU DEEM IT APPROPRIATE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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